

Newport arrived at Jamestown, again, in the fall of 1608, with more presents for Powhatan; and Smith was induced to carry a message to that king. Powhatan was not at home when he arrived, and Pocahontas entertained him, meanwhile, with the following ceremonies. A fire was made on a large, level field, before which he sat down on a mat. Suddenly, such a hideous yelling was heard among the woods, that Smith seized upon his arms, and started up. He supposed that Powhatan was coming upon him with his whole force.

But Pocahontas presently approached him, and pledged her life that no hurt should be done him. Thirty young women now came out from the woods, painted of various colors, but all different, and wearing sashes of woven leaves. Their leader had a large pair of buck's horns on her head, an otter's skin at her girdle, another on her arm, a quiver of arrows at her shoulder, and a bow in her hand.

The next had in her hand a sword, another a club, a third a potstick; others carrying other instruments, and all wearing horns. With loud cries, they now cast themselves into a circle about the fire, "singing and dauncing," as Smith writes, "with the most excellent ill varietie, oft falling into their infernall passions, and solemnly again to sing and daunce. Having spent near an hour in this mascardo, as they entred, in like manner they departed."

The Indian women now invited Smith to their lodgings. But he no sooner entered a house, than